



The Ultimate Word

A Poem

By Marion Doyle

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The Ultimate Word

Always there has been something not quite said;
 Something that sunlight sifted down through leaves,
Starlight on water, and the echoes shed
 From slow rain's whisper in deserted caves
Tried to interpret in my slower tongue. . . .

Once, long ago—oh, very long ago—
 Before the world was old, and I was young,
I almost grasped the Word in flakes of snow,
 In fireflies like golden spangles flung
Across a dancer's twilight-colored hair,
 In spider-webs miraculously strung
With a gnome-king's ransom in the morning air. . . .

But that was long ago—oh, long ago—
 Before the world was old, and I was young.

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